

CLAIMS:

1. A method of embedding a watermark in an information signal bit-stream, the method comprising the steps of:
 - receiving a portion of an information signal bit-stream;
 - storing a first copy of the received portion in a first buffer;
 - 5 watermarking a second copy of the received portion; storing the resulting watermarked signal in a second buffer;
 - performing a check at predetermined intervals to determine if the bit-rate of the received portion has been changed by being watermarked; and
 - outputting the first copy of the received portion from the first buffer if the
 - 10 check determines the bit-rate has changed, otherwise outputting the watermarked signal from the second buffer.
2. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said watermarking step comprises embedding a watermark in the second copy of the received portion by transcoding.
- 15 3. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said information signal comprises at least one of a transport stream and a program stream.
4. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said information signal bit-stream
- 20 comprises a series of packets, the predetermined interval corresponding to the first buffer receiving an integral number of said packets.
5. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said predetermined interval is when a predetermined start code of the bit-stream is detected at a predetermined position within the
- 25 first buffer.
6. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said predetermined interval corresponds to at least one of the buffers being filled by a respective stored signal.

7. A computer program arranged to perform the method as claimed in claim 1.

8. A record carrier comprising a computer program as claimed in claim 7.

9. A method of making available for downloading a computer program as claimed in claim 7.

10. A watermarked information signal formed according to the method as claimed in claim 1.

11. A record carrier comprising a watermarked information signal as claimed in claim 10.

12. An apparatus for embedding a watermark in an information signal bit-stream, the apparatus comprising:

a receiver for receiving a portion of an information signal bit-stream;
a first buffer for storing a first copy of the received portion;
a watermarker for watermarking a second copy of the received portion;
a second buffer for storing the resulting watermarked signal;

a controller arranged to perform a check at predetermined intervals to determine if the bit-rate of the received portion has been changed by the watermarking process; and

a multiplexer arranged to output the first copy of the received portion from the first buffer if the check determines the bit-rate has changed, and otherwise to output the watermarked signal from the second buffer.